GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:434
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
KASS PLATEAU AS WORLD HERITAGE
Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to the UNESCO to approve Kass Plateau as World Heritage Site status;

(b) if so, the status of the said proposal and reaction of UNESCO in this regard; and

(c) the amount of funds given by the Government and the UNESCO to preserve and protect the wild flowers in the Kass Plateau?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY)

(a): The Government of India has submitted a proposal to UNESCO World Heritage Centre for inscription of 39 serial sites in Western Ghats on the UNESCO's World Natural Heritage List. These sites are in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The Kass Plateau in Maharashtra is one among the 39 Serial Sites included in India's proposal.

(b): As per UNESCO's Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention, all proposals for natural heritage submitted by the State Parties are evaluated by the World Heritage Centre, Paris and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland. A two member IUCN Technical Team was in India from 10th to 23rd October, 2010 to conduct the field evaluation of the proposed sites. The IUCN Technical Team had also visited Kass Plateau in Maharashtra. The report of the team will be submitted to UNESCO, Paris and based on that additional information/ clarification(s), if any on India's proposal may be required in near future.

(c): The Government and UNESCO have not given any funds to preserve the wild flowers in the Kass Plateau.